

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Office's review of the present application. In response to the Office Action, the cited references have been reviewed, and the rejections and objections made to the claims by the Examiner have been considered. The claims presently on file in the present application are believed to be patentably distinguishable over the cited references, and therefore allowance of these claims is earnestly solicited.

In order to render the claims more clear and definite, and to emphasize the patentable novelty thereof, claims 4, 7, 20, and 23 have been amended, and claims 3 and 22 have been canceled without prejudice. Support for any claim amendments and new claims is found in the specification, claims, and drawings as originally filed, and no new matter has been added. Accordingly, all claims presently on file in the subject application are in condition for immediate allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

This Amendment is submitted in order to further prosecution and permit the issuance of a patent on the allowable subject matter, and should not be construed as acquiescence by Applicants in the outstanding rejection. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the content of any cancelled claims in a continuing application.

Rejections

Rejection Under 35USC §102

Claims 19-20 have been rejected under 35 USC §102(e), as being anticipated by U.S. patent 6,527,355 to Yang et al. ("Yang"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and request reconsideration based on the amendment to claim 20 and features in the claims which are neither disclosed nor suggested in the cited reference.

With this Amendment, independent claim 20 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 22 (canceled herein) which was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base

claim but allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 19 depends from amended claim 20 and thus is now allowable in dependent form. The rejection of claims 19-20 under 35 USC §102(e), therefore, is rendered moot.

Formalities

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 4-12, 14-17, 23-24, and 26-29 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim and have been indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants note that claims 9, 14, and 26 had been rewritten in independent form in a previous amendment, and thus Applicants consider independent claims 9, 14, and 26, and their dependent claims 10-12, 15-17, and 27-29, deemed allowable.

With this Amendment, allowable claim 4 has been rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim (claim 3, canceled herein) and any intervening claims (none). As rewritten claim 4 is now believed to be in allowable form, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claims 5-6 are allowable in dependent form.

With this Amendment, allowable claim 7 has been rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim (claim 3, canceled herein) and any intervening claims (none). As rewritten claim 7 is now believed to be in allowable form, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claim 8 is allowable in dependent form.

With this Amendment, allowable claim 23 has been rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim (claim 20) and any intervening claims (none). As rewritten claim 23 is now believed to be in allowable form, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claim 24 is allowable in dependent form.

Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance

Applicants agree with the Office's conclusion regarding patentability, without necessarily agreeing with or acquiescing in the reason(s) set forth in the Office Action. In particular, applicant(s) wish to emphasize that the patentability of claims stems from the respective combinations of elements defined by the claims, each viewed as a whole, rather than the presence of any particular element(s) in the combinations. Applicants submit that the indicated claims are allowable because the prior art fails to anticipate, teach, suggest, or render obvious the invention as claimed, independent of how the invention is paraphrased. Applicants thus rely on the claims, as drafted, rather than any characterization in the Office Action.

Conclusion

Attorney for Applicant(s) has reviewed each one of the cited references made of record and not relied upon, and believes that the claims presently on file in the subject application patentably distinguish thereover, either taken alone or in combination with one another.

Therefore, all claims presently on file in the subject application are in condition for immediate allowance, and such action is respectfully requested. If it is felt for any reason that direct communication with Applicant's attorney would serve to advance prosecution of this case to finality, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned Robert C. Sismilich, Esq. at the below-listed telephone number.

**AUTHORIZATION TO PAY AND PETITION
FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF ANY NECESSARY FEES**

If any charges or fees must be paid in connection with the foregoing communication (including but not limited to the payment of an extension fee or issue fees), or if any overpayment is to be refunded in connection with the above-identified application, any such charges or fees, or any such overpayment, may be respectively paid out of, or into, the Deposit Account No. 08-2025 of Hewlett-Packard Company. If any such payment also requires Petition or Extension Request, please construe this authorization to pay as the necessary Petition or Request which is required to accompany the payment.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: 5/5/06

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